Special Category Status to Uttaranchal, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand

3923. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to its backwardness Uttaranchal is considered as a State under special category; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take for granting special status to Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The Special Category Status is given to those States which are having a strategic location on the border with neighbouring countries, hilly terrain, inadequate economic and social infrastructure, predominantly large tribal population and limited & weak resource base compared to development needs. Since, the State of Uttaranchal fulfills these features, the 49th Meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) held on September 1, 2001 unanimously endorsed the decision to grant special Category Status to Uttaranchal.

(b) Since the States of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand do not have all these features, they are not included under Special Category States. However, the said meeting of the NDC decided that suggestions made before it for looking into the criteria for granting Special Category Status to States should be examined.

Special Packages for NER and Kashmir

3924. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether special packages declared for NER and Kashmir are part of normal Five Year Plan or it is additional;

(b) whether Government have decided to implement these programmes only with 10 per cent budgetary allocation for NER;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the project-wise sources of additional resources already